

SUMMARY
DECEMBER 7, 1989
PAGE 1

[DECEMBER 7TH, 1989] [CAMBRIDGE] [ROUGH
DRAFT 3] [PRELIMINARY SUMMARY OF A BOOK IN
PROGRESS, TENTATIVELY ENTITLED "THE BOMB
MAKERS AND THE PRESIDENT: THE EVIL MINUET OF
EDWARD TELLER AND RONALD REAGAN, WITH A
SUPPORTING CAST OF THOUSANDS"]

This book is based on a four year long
intensive research by a Harvard professor who
is a psychoanalyst, with a background in
anthropology and in arms control. Conducted
mainly among the tribes of the Livermore and
Los Alamos laboratories, with an occasional
exclusion to such interviewees in the Soviet
Union as Andrei Sakharov and Yvgeni
Vilikov(?), developers of their hydrogen bomb
- - will describe the ways in which creative
scientists and engineers lent their
considerable gifts to the service of creating
a nuclear weapons unique in history whose
stated aim was to defend the nation from
nuclear devastation by destroying incoming
missiles.

The spine of the story is the detailed
account of the intersection lives of men

SUMMARY
DECEMBER 7, 1989
PAGE 2

working on a single system, the nuclear pumped x-ray laser, known as "Star Wars". It is a paradigm of the precipice on which humanity is poised, still poised, despite the thaw in the cold war.

The charter, "to imitate the devil" as one brilliant nuclear strategist put it, was first taken out in the 1940's at Los Alamos where the first atomic bomb was built, in the belief that Hitler was already working on one. The passionate aim of the men working on the Manhattan Project, the first secret science project of this dimension in human history, was to unlock the mysteries of nature, to the end of achieving sufficient destructive power to destroy Hitler. "Star Wars" was a continuation of this project, except that "The Enemy" had been shifted: from Hitler to Communism.

I have chosen as the leading characters of this outsized drama, Edward Teller, Ronald Reagan, and Peter Hagelstein, developer of the nuclear pumped x-ray laser, a system which remains as the foundation for the "Star

SUMMARY
DECEMBER 7, 1989
PAGE 3

Wars" program. There is a large supporting cast, almost all male, of colorful, complex personalities who play pivotal roles. For example, Roy Woodruff, formerly in charge of all nuclear weapons design at the Livermore Laboratory, decided to challenge Edward Teller's misleading claims to Ronald Reagan and, for his pains as a whistle blower, has been, along with his wife Mary (a former director of administration at the Livermore Lab) the target of an unprecedented program of orchestrated and destructive harassment.

As of this writing, the Woodruffs are seriously considering a million dollar lawsuit against the Livermore Laboratory and its protector, the University of California. Such a suit would challenge the very foundations of the links between the University of California and both bomb factories, namely Livermore and Los Alamos.

I have circumscribed this book to the tracking of this single nuclear weapons system, namely the nuclear pumped x-ray laser, because it provides a self-contained

SUMMARY
DECEMBER 7, 1989
PAGE 4

story. In the course of this tracking, Peter Hagelstein's struggles are a kind of fish spine, with the ribs coming out on each side, comprised by the other members of the famous O-Group at the Livermore Lab. The relationship of this O-Group together with Teller, Wood and other individuals at the lab to the governmental bureaucracies and to the military industrial complex itself, makes for a kind of Cecil B. De Mille epic. this is, of course, underscored when one tracks the intersections of these life cycles with those of members of Congress who, after all, hold the ultimate power by way of denying or granting funds for these enterprises.

It is my intention, in as vividly human terms as I can muster, to describe within this framework the interactions between such people as Edward Teller, Ronald Reagan, Lowell Wood, Peter Hagelstein, etc., with persons of obvious power and responsibility like Lt. General Abramson and entire teams of scientists at both laboratories. Interwoven into this story there must be the role of the science advisor, in this case, George

SUMMARY
DECEMBER 7, 1989
PAGE 5

Keyworth a protege of Tellers which leads into a fascinating problem all by itself, namely, the changing role of the Presidential science advisor and the changing role of technology in foreign policy.

Much of this story will be told in the first person, whether it is an account of my own interviews with nuclear scientists like Edward Teller or Peter Hagelstein or a report of the goings on at an international conference on arms control, which I attended along with Teller and Wood in Erice, Sicily in 1983, shortly after Ronald Reagan's famous March 23rd speech which launched "Star Wars".

*Dr. John Mack's 'quote "outrageous" experience with Edward Teller where, when Edward Teller heard that Dr. Mack was a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, he shouted to him, "Get out! Get out! If you are not working for the Communist Party already, you should be" And thereupon gave him the bum's rush out of the office after only 15 or 20 minutes.

SUMMARY
DECEMBER 7, 1989
PAGE 6

I do believe that the international conference in Erice Sicily might merit a chapter all by itself because, not only were Teller and Wood active participants at this conference but there were present also, governmental leaders and diplomats from all over the world, including the Soviet Union. My dinner partner, for example, was Pierre Trudeau.

[END OF TAPE 1].